

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph 0014 of the application as published:

--[0014] According to the invention, an analyte detection station used in an automated immunoassay analyzer includes a transport device or mechanism for transporting a plurality of vessels (e.g., tubes, etc.) under investigation to a detector which preferably detects radiant energy (e.g., preferably chemiluminescence generated when a bound analyte cleaves a chemical substrate) or a color change (a color change detection would require a means for illuminating the vessel which is being read) that is indicative of the amount of bound analyte within the vessel (thereby providing a reading of the amount of analyte under investigation in the sample being tested). The detector is maintained in a housing separate from the transport device or mechanism, and a transfer device is used to individually transfer vessels from the transport device or mechanism to be presented to the detector. Preferably, the housing includes a rotary portion which moves the individual vessel from a point of transfer in the housing to a position in front of the detector where the vessel is completely shielded from radiant energy from the surrounding environment (e.g., stray light). In this way, the reading made by the detector accurately reflects only the radiant energy (or color change) in the vessel, and thereby permits highly accurate determination of the analyte of interest in the sample under investigation. The housing is also preferably configured to allow easy disposal of vessels after the detector has made a reading.—

Paragraph 0029 of the application as published:

[0029] While FIG. 2 shows the transport device or mechanism as an oval shaped luminometer belt 3, having a plurality of vessel receptacles 3a each for receiving a vessel 5. It should be understood that other transport devices or mechanisms, such as belts, etc., could be used. In addition, the configuration for the transport belt does not need to be in an oval. An important feature for the preferred embodiment, however, is that the test vessels can be moved backwards and forwards in a controlled fashion at a controlled time interval to be presented to the read station 2.--.